

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 FEA-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 L-03 H-02 /032 R

DRAFTED BY ARA-EP/E:JAALLITTO:ET

APPROVED BY ARA-LA/EP:RFWEBER

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R 220117Z JUL 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY QUITO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EC

SUBJECT: ADA CASE

1. DESK OFFICER BRIEFED ADA'S JOE LASSITER JULY 21 ON GIST OF REFTEL. LASSITER GREATLY APPRECIATES THE AMBASSADOR'S PERSONAL HANDLING OF THE CASE, AS WELL AS THE DESK OFFICER'S APPROACH TO ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR CARDENAS, WHICH WAS MADE JULY 19 WHEN CARDENAS CALLED ABOUT ANOTHER MATTER.

2. LASSITER VOLUNTEERED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION, THE SOURCE OF WHICH IS MINISTER OF DEFENSE GENERAL ANDRES ARRATA, A SUPPOSEDLY GOOD FRIEND OF CARLOS JIMENEZ, ADA'S ECUADORIAN LAWYER. ACCORDING TO ARRATA, THE SUPREME COUNCIL MET JULY 16 WITH SEVERAL MINISTERS INCLUDING ARRATA AND MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES RENE VARGAS TO HEAR VARGAS BRIEF THEM ON THE GOE'S PETROLEUM POLICY. VARGAS SUPPOSEDLY SAID THAT ANY RESOLUTION OF THE TEXACO-GULF (T-G) PROBLEM WOULD BE VERY DIFFICULT BECAUSE IT WOULD INVOLVE A GOE PAYMENT OF AN ENORMOUS COMPENSATION. ARRATA CLAIMS THAT HE THEN

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INTERRUPTED VARGAS TO SAY THAT VARGAS' STATEMENT WAS NOT

CORRECT BECAUSE THE QUESTION OF COMPENSATION WAS EXACTLY

WHAT WAS TO BE NEGOTIATED BETWEEN THE GOE AND T-G, AND
SO VARGAS SHOULD PROCEED TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH T-G
TO SEE WHAT COULD BE WORKED OUT.

3. ARRATA ALSO SAID THE ADA CASE WAS MENTIONED BRIEFLY
AT THE MEETING, IN THE SAME GENERAL WAY, I.E., QUOTE
LET'S SEE WHAT CAN BE WORKED OUT.END QUOTE. ARRATA
THEREFORE ASKED JIMENEZ FOR COPIES OF ADA'S AIDE
MEMOIRE OF JULY 2, 1976, WHICH ARRATA SAID HE WOULD
GIVE PERSONALLY TO EACH OF THE THREE MEMBERS OF THE
SUPREME COUNCIL. LASSITER SAID THAT HE WAS CERTAIN
JIMENEZ HAD ALREADY DONE THAT, BUT THAT LASSITER DID
NOT KNOW FOR SURE THAT ARRATA HAD DELIVERED THE COPIES.

4. JIMENEZ' FINAL PIECE OF INFORMATION WAS THAT ARRATA
SAID THAT LASSITER SHOULD NOT PUSH FOR A MEETING WITH
THE SUPREME COUNCIL AT THIS TIME, BUT SHOULD GIVE THE
COUNCIL TIME TO RECEIVE VARGAS' REPORT, AND TO STUDY
IT AND THE ADA AIDE-MEMOIRE. LASSITER SAID THAT HE
WAS PREPARED TO FOLLOW THAT ADVICE. ROBINSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTES, NATIONALIZATION, COMPENSATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE181068
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EP/E:JAALLITTO:ET
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760281-1221
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760732/aaaabblr.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 JUL 2004 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <20 JUL 2004 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADA CASE
TAGS: ENRG, EC, TEXACO-GULF
To: QUITO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006